

March 7, 2022

To the Members of the Energy & Technology Committee

Written Testimony Regarding:

**SB 278 (RAISED) AN ACT REQUIRING MULTICHANNEL VIDEO PROGRAMMING DISTRIBUTORS  
TO PAY A COMMUNITY ACCESS PROGRAMMING FEE**

Thank you for taking up SB 278 concerning Regional Community Access Providers (CAPS) and Public, Educational and Government Access (PEG) Programming. With the corporatization of media sources, PEG channels are more important than ever. They provide an invaluable service in our state in keeping citizens connected to their communities by providing information on local news, community events, town government and other meetings that are often overlooked or completely ignored by media enterprises. Decisions made at the local level often have the most direct impact on citizens' everyday life. And we know that information is a key component to citizen engagement with their community, thereby aiding a more vibrant democratic process.

Your support is needed to ensure that PEG channels continue to connect citizens to their local government and community-at-large with news and events they cannot find elsewhere. I hope you can remedy the funding mechanism for PEG. Without your support, PEGs may no longer exist.

I urge your support of this important service.

Thank you,

Elizabeth S. Giannaros  
Farmington, CT